

against claims 31-50. As such, pursuant to MPEP § 707.05(g), Applicant submits that the Office Action is defective at least because of the omitted citation of Rowe.

Therefore, pursuant to MPEP § 710.06, Applicant is entitled to and requests a supplementary Office Action explaining the references more explicitly or giving the reasons more fully and a new period for reply.

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REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested. Claims 1-16 and 31-50 are pending, with claims 1 and 10 being independent. The following remarks are based on Applicant's current understanding of the grounds of rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Kauffman/Berry et al./Boezeman et al. Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 9-14, and 31-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,586,235 to Kauffman ("Kauffman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,692,205 to Berry et al. ("Berry") and U.S. Patent No. 5,889,519 to Boezeman et al. ("Boezeman"). Claims 4, 9, and 31-40 depend from claim 1. Claims 11-14 and 41-50 depend from claim 10. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 are directed to producing a streaming multimedia document and recite "choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user." Neither Kauffman, Berry, nor Boezeman, alone or in combination, teach or suggest at least this feature of independent claims 1 and 10.

Kauffman is directed to an interactive multimedia system and method that provides a standard document structure for organizing and storing information. See Kauffman at col. 2, ll. 35-39. The document includes at least one page, and the page contains at least one asset file and a page execution script. See Kauffman at col. 2, ll. 39-51; col. 6, l. 50. Authoring code is used

to create the page execution scripts, which instruct when to display or play information contained in the asset file. See Kauffman at col. 12, ll. 62-65. However, Kauffman fails to describe or suggest choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Berry is directed to a method and system for integration of multimedia presentations within an object oriented user interface, which provides for encapsulating multimedia data within an object. See Berry at col. 2, ll. 41-45. Berry does not require separate audio or video objects to be manipulated by the user. See Berry at col. 2, ll. 41-45. However, Berry does not remedy the failure of Kauffman to describe or suggest choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Boezeman is directed to a method and system for a multimedia application development sequence editor using a wrap corral, which allows parts of a multimedia title to be continuously played or shown. See Boezeman at col. 2, ll. 41-46. Boezeman describes a sequence editor user interface tool for synchronizing objects. See Boezeman at col. 5, ll. 40-50. However, Boezeman does not remedy the failure of Kauffman and Berry to describe or suggest choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

The Examiner's rejection asserts that Boezeman discloses "the choreographing information as defined in the timing comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the

first file support object and the second file support object to the user." As support, the Examiner's rejection cites three portions of Boezeman: (1) Col. 1, lines 50-60; (2) Col. 5, lines 4-19; and (3) Col. 5, lines 30-55. The cited portions of Boezeman, however, fail to support the assertion.

First, col. 1, lines 50-60 of Boezeman states:

One of the most difficult problems that face creators/developers of multimedia titles is synchronization of time and events. For example, a developer must be able to synchronize audio with a video presentation and provide images that appear and disappear over time. In many complex real world examples it is desirable for two or more multimedia items to be synchronized based on one or more of the following: an event; a relative time relationship (i.e., A before B, A after B, A coincident with B); and an absolute time. One product attempting to deal with time synchronization

While recognizing the problem of synchronization, this citation to Boezeman does not describe or suggest choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Second, col. 5, lines 4-19 of Boezeman states:

animation to play; 2) during the course of the animation, a piece of audio is also played; 3) at the simultaneous ending of the animation and audio, a video plays, the second half of which plays at twice the rate of the first half; 4) independent of 1-3 above, an image appears ten seconds after the push button is pressed, remains visible for 20 seconds while moving across the screen, and then disappears; and 5) shortly after the video begins an exit push button appears on the display.

Referring to FIG. 16, a real world example that might require this type of processing could be a computer based training application (a multimedia title 300) for a student in an automotive service center. The student would click on an arbitrary part, a push button 302, on a computer to view information about how to assemble a previously selected automobile part. The arbitrary event, i.e., clicking the push

This portion of Boezeman does not describe or suggest choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Third, col. 5, ll. 30-55 of Boezeman states:

completeness of the student's background. Due to time constraints, the second half of the video plays at twice the rate of the first half. Independent of the above processing, an image (image part 312) is displayed 10 seconds into the playing of the animation, and moves across the screen for 20 seconds. The image is a welcome message wishing the student good luck. Also independent of the above processing, shortly after the video begins playing, an exit push button (push button part 314) appears at the bottom of the screen allowing the student to exit the video if it is deemed unnecessary to further understanding.

To solve the synchronization problem as described above, a sequence editor in accordance with the present invention is provided. The sequence editor is a mechanism that allows a user to synchronize relative time, absolute time and event time together in an easy to use manner. The solution assumes that items for synchronization (such as an animation, video, audio, image) have been previously identified and selected by a user. There are several tools which allow selection of these types of items for synchronization and further description is not required.

The sequence editor approach to synchronization starts with events. Events are unpredictable and often occur randomly. They can be caused by user interaction or other asynchronous activity. Examples of events could be a push button being clicked, a video playing to completion, an

This portion of Boezeman does not describe or suggest choreographing information for allowing a document author to define the timing at which the first file support object and the second file support object are retrieved by a user, the choreographing information comprising data slices from the first file support object interleaved with data slices from the second file support object

so as to incrementally display the first file support object and the second file support object to the user, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Independent claims 1 and 10 thus are allowable for at least the above reasons. Claims 4, 9, 11-14, and 31-50 are allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as on their own merits.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Kauffman/Berry/Boezeman/Rowe Rejection

Claims 31-50 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauffman, Berry, Boezeman, and further in view of Rowe. Claims 31-40 depend from claim 1 and claims 41-50 depend from claim 10. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the independent claims, is respectfully traversed.

Rowe fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman with respect to independent claims 1 and 10. Claims 31-50 thus are allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as on their own merits.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Kauffman/Berry/Boezeman/Ando Rejection

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,826 to Ando ("Ando"). Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the independent claims, is respectfully traversed.

Ando is directed to a structured data processor for converting between sequential and tree structured data, including a structured data treating unit for editing data. See Ando at col. 4, ll. 25-43; col. 6, ll. 44-47. Ando fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman with respect to independent claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 thus are allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as on their own merits.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Kauffman/Berry/Boezeman/Johnson Rejection

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,847 to Johnson ("Johnson"). Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the independent claims, is respectfully traversed.

Johnson is directed to a method and apparatus for compressing images, including an encoder that that created a file format that layers the compressed image. See Johnson at col. 4, ll. 30-49. Johnson fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman with respect to independent claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 thus are allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as on their own merits.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Kauffman/Berry/Boezeman/Brown Rejection

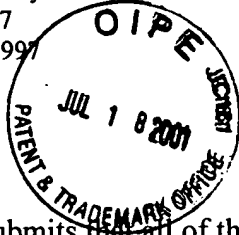
Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman, and further in view of Brown (Using Netscape 2, 1995) ("Brown"). Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 10. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the independent claims, is respectfully traversed.

Brown is directed to the use of frames in an HTML document. See Brown at 773-777. Brown fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kauffman, Berry, and Boezeman with respect to independent claim 10. Claims 15 and 16 thus are allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as on their own merits.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance a requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

July 18, 2001

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott R. Boalick".

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